



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

Engineer Research and  
Development Center

# Regional Internet Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS)

## Technology

**RIBITS** is an Internet-based tracking system that allows U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Districts to monitor wetland mitigation banking. Mitigation banking is the restoration, creation, enhancement, or preservation of wetlands to compensate for unavoidable wetland losses in advance of development actions. Banking typically involves the consolidation of small, fragmented wetland mitigation projects into one large contiguous site. Units of restored, created, enhanced or preserved wetlands are expressed as "credits" which may subsequently be withdrawn to offset "debits" incurred at a project development site. With **RIBITS**, a District can track the status of mitigation banks, monitor credits and debits incurred by permitting actions, view compliance reports, and automatically email requests for information and upcoming deadlines from a single Internet-based interface.

## Problem

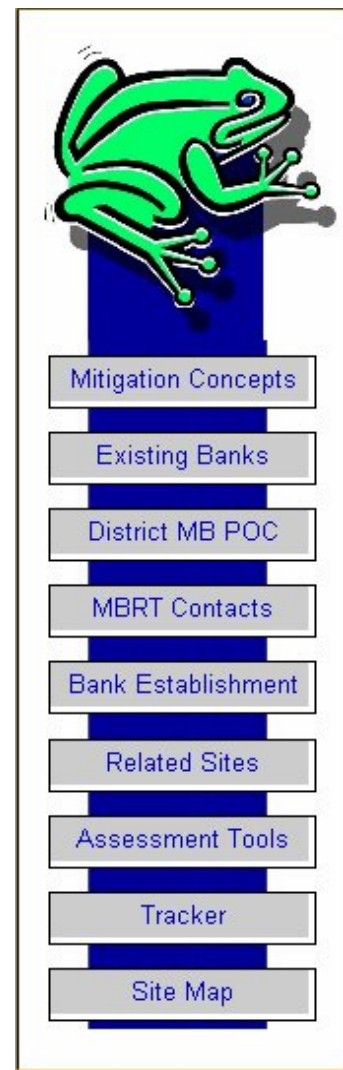
Manual methods to monitor the establishment of mitigation banks and their ongoing accounting activities are cumbersome and time-consuming. Researchers in ERDC's Environmental Laboratory (EL) developed **RIBITS** in response to requests by USACE field offices for tools to track mitigation banking activities.

## Expected Cost To Implement

Implementation cost is dependent upon modification or customizations to the basic **RIBITS** module. Users will reimburse EL for constructing their RIBITS site; each site will require a regional, "clickable" GIS-based map to track their mitigation banking activities. The user will then incur costs in populating the site. Opportunities exist for cost-sharing with various state and federal agencies (see "Status" below).

## Benefits/Savings

**RIBITS** is a set of continually evolving, state-of-the-art, computer-based tools that will increase the accuracy, reliability, and cost-effectiveness of mitigation banking activities in a timely manner. More specifically, **RIBITS** provides the necessary tools to track mitigation bank ledger transactions, evaluate and process proposed mitigation banking instruments, and review and document bank successes and failures with ecological success criteria. The U.S. Environmental Protection



Agency (USEPA) provided 65 percent of the funding in Mobile, with an additional 10 percent of funding provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

**Status** **RIBITS** has been deployed on the Mobile District server at: <https://samribits.sam.usace.army.mil/ribits/> and the Norfolk District server at: <https://ribits.nao.usace.army.mil/ribits/index.php> and is currently being beta tested at the Portland and Sacramento District offices. **RIBITS** has recently been deployed at the Norfolk and Sacramento District Offices, with the Corps' Wetlands Regulatory Assistance Program (WRAP) funding these sites. USFWS funded the server at the Norfolk **RIBITS** site.

**ERDC POC** Kelly A. Burks-Copes (601-634-2290; [Kelly.A.Burks-Copes @usace.army.mil](mailto:Kelly.A.Burks-Copes@usace.army.mil)).

**Distribution Sources** A demonstration **RIBITS** site can be found at: <http://216.83.232.125:443/pls/htmldb/f?p=101:2:686264454175071938>  
To receive an on-site demonstration of the site's capabilities (demonstration of the various capabilities of the secure and public sites), contact Kelly Burks-Copes at 601-634-2290 ([Kelly.A.Burks-Copes@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kelly.A.Burks-Copes@usace.army.mil)).

**Available Training** Limited training is available through the Wetlands Regulatory Assistance Program (**WRAP**; see **WRAP** website for more information on application information). Additional training is provided to USACE field offices on a reimbursable basis; point of contact is Ms. Kelly Burks-Copes (601-634-2290; [Kelly.A.Burks-Copes@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kelly.A.Burks-Copes@usace.army.mil)).

**Available Support** **RIBITS** is a user-friendly, computer-based program. Guidance that accompanies **RIBITS** should make the system easy to use and navigate. However, if users experience problems in using **RIBITS**, they are asked to contact Kelly Burks-Copes at 601-634-2290 ([Kelly.A.Burks-Copes@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kelly.A.Burks-Copes@usace.army.mil)).